

Emergency Support Function – No. 11
Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex

ESF Coordinator:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

Primary Agency:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services

VERT ESF Branch:

Human Services Branch

Support Agency:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Forestry
- Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Department of General Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Historic Resources
- Marine Resources Commission
- Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services
- Department of Military Affairs
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Virginia State Police
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD)
- Department of Transportation

Introduction

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources supports local authorities and the efforts of other state agencies to provide food and nutrition services to disaster victims, control and eradicate animal and plant diseases, assure food safety and security, and protect natural and cultural resources related to disasters.

Scope

ESF #11 includes four primary functions:

A. Provision of nutrition assistance:

Includes determining nutrition assistance needs of disaster victims, obtaining appropriate food supplies, arranging for delivery of the supplies, and authorizing disaster food stamps.

B. Animal and plant disease and pest response:

Includes implementing an integrated Federal, state, and local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant

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pest infestation. Ensures, in coordination with ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services), that animal, veterinary, and wildlife issues in natural disasters are supported.

C. Assurance of the safety and security of the commercial food supply:

Includes the inspection and verification of food safety aspects of slaughter and processing plants; products in distribution and retail sites; laboratory analysis of food samples; control of products suspected to be adulterated; plant closures; foodborne disease surveillance; and field investigations.

D. Protection of natural, cultural and historic (NCH) resources: Includes appropriate response actions to conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore NCH resources related to the direct affects of a disaster or the actions taken to restore resources affected by a disaster.

Mission

ESF #11 ensures the protection and restoration of agricultural, natural and historic resources, and assists local governments with the provision of food to people in shelters and to other people impacted by an incident.

Organization

General

- A. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is the primary agency for ESF #11 in the Humans Services Branch of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and is responsible for the coordination

of this function and for the maintenance of this part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP). Each of the four ESF #11 functions is supported by federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The individual support agencies do not have the resources to assist with all four ESF #11 functions.

- B. Volunteer agencies and professional organizations play major support roles in ESF #11. The Federation of Virginia Foodbanks, an affiliate of Second Harvest, a national distribution network for donated food, assists local providers with food supplies. Representatives from the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), and the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) work with representative from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and VDACS to assist localities with the emergency sheltering of household pets and service animals. Local historical societies and conservation groups assist with the protection and restoration of cultural resources.

- C. The Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will have a number of responsibilities in the plan. VCE will be the principal organization to assess agricultural damage, designate representatives to serve as members of damage assessment teams, and to communicate with the agricultural community on protective actions and measures in the event of a disaster or catastrophic event.

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- A. For function #1, providing food to assist local governments, VDACS and appropriate support agencies will locate food sources and allocate appropriate supplies. Delivery of food will be coordinated through ESF #1 and ESF #6.
- B. VDACS is also responsible for coordinating an integrated inter-agency response to an outbreak of highly contagious or economically devastating animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation. These activities are part of function #2 for ESF #11 – Animal and plant disease and pest response.
- C. VDACS addresses animal health issues in coordination with ESF #8, veterinary medicine associations and other agencies.
- D. Function #3, assurance of the safety of the commercial food industry, is a responsibility shared by VDACS and VDH. VDACS regulates retail food stores, some food processors and storage facilities, and VDH regulates restaurants, and some food processors. Following a disaster, these agencies will ensure that areas impacted by the disaster are a high priority for the food safety inspections and verifications required by law.
- E. For function #4 – the protection of natural, cultural and historic resources – the responsibilities are assigned to several departments: protection of endangered species is shared by VDACS and DGIF, natural heritage preservation is DCR, air and water quality are protected by DEQ, DCR and

MRC, and DHR protects cultural and historic resources. All actions in response to disasters, including those to protect rivers, streams and facilities, repair and restore damaged structures, or to modify the built or natural environment must be monitored by the ESF #11 agencies that have oversight responsibilities for those facilities. During the recovery period, these agencies collaborate with federal agencies at the JFO to coordinate protective actions.

Concept of Operations

ESF #11 will respond to the VEOC when an incident threatens to disrupt the routine protection of the food supply and distribution systems, or stimulate animal and/or plant disease outbreaks, or endanger animal health, or endanger historic, cultural or natural resources. ESF #11 will implement standard procedures and coordinate actions to assist local governments.

A. Provision of nutrition assistance

- 1. A catastrophic or major disaster will deprive substantial numbers of people of access to and/or the means to prepare food. The food supply and distribution network will be interrupted until roads are cleared and power is restored. Without power, many commercial cold storage and freezer facilities will be inoperable and much of the existing food supply inventory may be destroyed.

2. Disaster education initiatives by state and local government agencies and voluntary organizations will advise the public to stockpile food and water supplies sufficient for their household for 5 to 7 days. Residents in a disaster area must be prepared to care for themselves until the normal food supply and distribution system has been restored or supplemental food supplies have been brought in.
3. During the increased readiness period, ESF #11 will develop estimates of the number of people who will need food based on damage projections.
4. The earliest situation reports and damage assessments will indicate the level of immediate human needs including food, and the condition of the infrastructure including the transportation system and the power grid.
5. VDACS will assist affected local governments as needed with the provision of essential food supplies to mass care facilities. Such assistance will include locating items and making them available and ensuring pick-up and delivery through other ESFs. This assistance will be provided only during that period when local governments are unable to manage on their own due to disaster effects.
6. After the delivery of food supplies to the disaster area, it will be the responsibility of the receiving local government to secure and distribute these supplies to disaster victims.
7. The delivery of food to victims of disasters is dependent upon food sources, food protection services, transportation resources and food delivery systems. Conditions in the disaster area determine the appropriate methods of delivering food to individuals. Food can be delivered to disaster victims and relief workers by prepared meals in fixed or mobile feeding facilities, by bulk through foodbanks or other volunteer agencies, or by voucher or food stamps through retail establishments.
8. The COV will not solicit or encourage the donation of food supplies. VDEM will advise local governments to discourage the donation of food supplies. Providing food from known inventories using established systems and procedures is more efficient than using donated food supplies. (See ESF #7 and Support Annex: Volunteer and Donations Management).
9. State agencies that purchase, store, and deliver food as part of their normal operations will cooperate with VDACS in locating and providing surplus food for delivery to the disaster area. These agencies include those which operate food services for their own residential populations (prisons, colleges, hospitals) and those that assist with the distribution of food to local government facilities (schools and health departments).
10. Food supplies in the impacted area must be from sources acceptable to

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VDACS or VDH before they can be used or distributed. This includes donated food, and food services to disaster victims in mobile or fixed feeding facilities.

stamps are intended for use in retail establishments and therefore are not issued to residents until electric power is restored and retail outlets are open.

11. The Federation of Virginia Foodbanks, their regional and local affiliates, and other volunteer organizations will assist with locating available food supplies and, in coordination with VDACS, arrange for delivery to the disaster area.
12. The emergency per person food consumption standard included in this annex will be used as the basis for calculating food demand and supply.
13. State personnel will coordinate with local officials to ensure the ample and timely delivery of essential food supplies. They will assess the effectiveness of the disaster relief food distribution operation and redress any problems. VDACS and VDH will assist with the restoration of the local food supply and distribution system. Grocery stores and other food outlets should be able to resume normal operations within several days once road access and electric power have been restored.
14. The Department of Social Services will implement the Emergency Food Stamp Program when appropriate. This program issues food stamps to families whose ability to purchase food has been affected by the disaster, as well as to its regular clients within the disaster area. Food

B. Animal and plant disease and pest response

1. VDACS has the primary responsibility for monitoring the incidence rates of animal and plant diseases and pest infestations affecting agriculture.
2. VDACS has developed procedures to address animal diseases including quarantine, depopulation and disposal activities designed to stop the spread of the pathogen, limit the number of animals that must be euthanized and minimize the affect of the disease on people, the economy and the environment.

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Emergency Food Consumption Standards

<u>Food Groups and Food Items</u>	<u>Per Person/Per Week Standard</u>
Meat and meat alternatives (red meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, cheese, dry beans, peas, and nuts)	3 pounds
Eggs	6
Milk	7 pints
Cereals and cereal products (flour including mixes, fresh bakery products, corn meal, rice, macaroni, and breakfast cereals)	4 pounds
Fruits and vegetables (fresh and frozen)	4 pounds
Food fats and oils (butter, margarine, lard, shortening and salad and cooking oils)	0.5 pounds
Potatoes (white and sweet)	2 pounds
Sugars, syrups, honey, and other sweets	0.5 pounds
Total	27.0 pounds (equivalent) per week

Action Checklist – Agriculture and Natural Resources Annex

1. Routine Operations

Develop and maintain that part of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) that provides for the provision of food to disaster victims. Maintain a notification roster of all designated individuals in primary and support agencies and of commercial resource suppliers.

2. Increased Readiness

A natural or man-made disaster is threatening some part of the state.

a. Communications Watch Level

VEOC alerts VDACS Emergency Coordination Officer (ECO) who in-turn notifies applicable members of VDACS.

b. Initial Alert Level

- (1) The VDACS ECO ensures that applicable members of VDACS are available for possible duty and are in a heightened standby status.
- (2) Applicable members of VDACS review the plans and procedures.

c. Advanced Alert Level

- (1) The VDACS ECO assumes his duty station at the VEOC. The VDACS Offices of Food Distribution and Dairy and Foods are contacted. The Office of Food Distribution will assess food supplies within Virginia and establish contact with USDA Food and Nutrition Services. The Office of Dairy and Foods will alert their staff and establish contact with VDH.
- (2) Localities furnish to the VEOC points of contact for the receipt of goods in each potentially affected locality. The VDACS representative in ESF 11 works through Local Liaison in the VEOC to ensure that localities are kept informed.
- (3) The VDACS representative in ESF-11 contacts DGS and alerts them that they may need to be ready to receive and store donated food supplies.
- (4) The VDACS representative in ESF-11 contacts the Resources Branch and alerts them that assistance may be needed in obtaining commercial motor transport for food supplies.

3. Response Operations

a. Mobilization Phase

Conditions continue to worsen requiring full-scale mitigation and preparedness activities

- (1) Local disaster officials anticipate the number of persons who may need food in a worst-case scenario. They are to plan for three days of such provision using the guidelines prepared by the VEOC. See the Emergency Food Consumption Standard in this annex. At the conclusion of their estimation activities, they transmit these estimates to the VEOC, which in turn transmits them to ESF-11.

- (2) The VDACS representative in ESF-11, with the assistance of the VDACS Office of Food Distribution, inventories available supplies of food and determines if the supplier can provide transportation.
- (3) Local disaster officials establish a point of contact in each affected locality to coordinate mass care feeding needs. They review their local plans and procedures. They should be stockpiling essential supplies from sources that they have immediately available. Local officials tentatively identify each mass care shelter facility to which food supplies may need to be delivered and communicate this information to the VEOC. The VEOC follows the established procedure of reporting the information to the VDACS representative in ESF-11, who in turn relays the information to the VDACS Office of Food Distribution.
- (4) Local officials begin to submit a daily summary report to the VEOC reflecting activities in each affected locality.
- (5) The VDACS Office of Dairy and Foods contacts the VDH and begins preparations to coordinate effort and manpower in the delivery of food safety services. A coordinated command center site is selected, appropriate supervisory personnel are notified that they will staff the site, and all inspectors who may be involved in food safety activities are placed on standby for assignment status.

b. Emergency Phase

Disaster strikes. An emergency response is required to save lives and protect property.

- (1) Local disaster officials assess the needs. Determine the number of people needing food for the next three days. Inventory the emergency food supplies of the affected localities and identify any shortfalls. Local officials communicate the shortfalls and the projected needs to the VEOC. Food needs are transmitted, through the chain, to the VDACS representative in ESF 11. The VDACS representative in ESF-11 begins to match supply with anticipated needs.
- (2) At the request of local officials, operations to supply food stuffs commence. The VDACS representative in ESF-11 notifies suppliers of the needs and has suppliers draw up orders according to those needs. The VDACS representative in ESF-11 negotiates with the Resources Branch for transportation according to supplier and destination information supplied by the VDACS representative. Local Liaison in the VEOC is provided delivery information and in-turn provides that information to local officials.
- (3) The VDACS representatives in ESF-11 begin to maintain a record of supplies provided and costs incurred. The Resources Branch does the same for transportation costs.
- (4) The VDACS Office of Dairy and Foods works with the VDH to provide food safety services at feeding centers.

c. Emergency Relief Phase

Assistance is provided to affected individuals and organizations. Stop-gap measures (such as tent cities and potable water trucks) are implemented in order to provide essential services. Preliminary damage assessment surveys are conducted. This phase ends when the locality is no longer in an official state of emergency.

- (1) VDACS and other supporting agencies continue to provide food for several days or until local governments and/or local food stores can provide them. The VDACS Office of Food Distribution contacts USDA for additional commodity needs.
- (2) In cooperation with the VDH, the VDACS Office of Dairy and Foods facilitates the resumed operation of food stores and normal food supply and delivery systems as soon as possible. Additional manpower is provided for salvage operations. This effort is coordinated with VDH and the U. S. FDA.
- (3) The required daily summary reports are submitted to the VEOC.

4. **Recovery Operations**

Essential facilities and services are restored. Displaced persons return to their homes. Federal disaster assistance programs are implemented. “Normal” conditions are restored. Severely damaged structures are rebuilt or demolished and replaced. The damaged parts of the transportation, water, and communications infrastructure are replaced. The economy is restored. The duration of this period may extend for two years or more, depending upon the severity of the disaster.

- a. The VDACS ECO submits to the VEOC an after-action report summarizing VDACS activities during the crisis.
- b. VDACS ECO serves as a member of the State Recovery Task Force to facilitate the restoration of normal commercial food supply and distribution systems.
- c. The VDACS ECO submits to the VEOC a record of expenses incurred or obligated due to the disaster.

Section 1 – Sheltering Household Pets and Service Animals

ESF Coordinator:

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
- Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
- Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS)
- Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM)
- Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)

Coordinating Agencies:

Purpose

Augmented staff in Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources supports local authorities and the efforts of other state agencies to provide shelter for household pets and service animals.

Scope

The primary functions of the augmented staff in ESF #11 will be to:

- Provide the location of pet shelters with the capacity to care for additional household pets and service animals;
- Locate equipment and supplies needed by pet shelters;
- Arrange for personnel needed to assist with shelter operations; and
- Arrange for veterinary medical support for injured and ill household pets and service animals.

Mission

This mission is to augment staff in ESF #11 to assist local authorities with the sheltering of household pets and service animals.

Concept of Operations

A Memorandum of Understanding is established between Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS) and the Commonwealth of Virginia (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) and the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM)) to coordinate assistance for pet-owning evacuees and pet-friendly human shelters and facilities that will accept pets in response to the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency.

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A. VDEM will:

1. Provide EOC training for representatives of the VVMA, VFHS, VDACS, and VMRCVM.
2. Provide information to citizens on preparations to evacuate with pets.
3. Assist with applications for reimbursement for expenses incurred during an emergency.
4. Request that organizations identify human shelters that will accommodate household pets and service animals and identify facilities adjacent to human shelters that may be suitable to shelter household pets and service animals.
5. Require that organizations providing human sheltering supply VDACS with a list of proposed shelters including addresses, contact people, and GIS coordinates, if possible.

B. VMRCVM will:

1. Provide representatives to the VEOC to respond to household pet and service animal sheltering inquiries.
2. Communicate disaster volunteer needs to faculty, staff, and students and maintain a list of volunteers for disaster response.
3. Encourage faculty, staff, and students to complete necessary Incident Command System and National Incident Management System training in preparation for disaster response.

C. VVMA will:

1. Provide representative to the VEOC to respond to household pet and service animal sheltering inquiries.
2. Make the initial contacts and encourage member veterinarians to volunteer to respond in the event of an emergency.

D. VFHS will:

1. Communicate with member organizations and other animal welfare volunteers in the VFHS' database to urge that these entities volunteer to be a VFHS representative to the VEOC to respond to household pet and service animal sheltering inquiries.
2. Establish and maintain the following databases for those serving in the VEOC to respond to household pet and service animal sheltering requests:
 - a. A current list of pet-friendly human shelters and facilities that will accept pets.
 - b. A list of equipment and supplies by location and the contact information to request mobilization.
 - c. A list of anticipated services and supplies needed and the contacts that may be able to provide those services and supplies.

E. VDACS will:

1. Coordinate with representatives from the VVMA, the VFHS, the VDEM, and the VMRCVM to coordinate assistance for pet-friendly human shelters and facilities that will accept pets prior

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to, during and following an emergency using the resources of numerous organizations.

2. Provide representatives to the VEOC to respond to household pet and service animal sheltering inquiries.

- F. VDACS Emergency Coordination Officer (ECO), when notified to respond to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), who will notify the State Veterinarian of the need to provide augmented staff in ESF #11 to support requests from local authorities for sheltering household pets and service animals. The State Veterinarian will develop a staffing schedule from representatives from VDACS, VVMA, VFHS and VMRCVM, and ensure that augmented staff is present in ESF #11 throughout the event.

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Section 2 – Management of Livestock or Poultry Disease Outbreaks

See VDACS Policy and Procedure 7.7, Highly Contagious Livestock or Poultry Disease
Emergency Operations Plan.

**Section 3 – Management of an Exotic Plant Disease or an Economically Devastating Plant
Pest Infestation**

See VDACS Policy and Procedure 7.8, Response to Plant Pest Emergency.

Section 4 - Management of Wildlife Disease Outbreaks

1. Routine Operations

As ongoing emergency preparedness in the case of wildlife disease outbreaks the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer will:

- a. Maintain a directory of Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) staff and facilities.
- b. Maintain a list and map of licensed wildlife rehabilitators, wildlife exhibitors, and captive wildlife facilities.

2. Readiness Level

Initial Alert Level:

On identification of Wildlife disease outbreak the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer will:

- a. Start monitoring the developing situation
- b. Review the potential for the disease to spread and affect other wildlife populations or domestic animals.
- c. Ascertain if the emergency involves a foreign animal disease or zoonotic disease.
- d. Coordinate with the State Veterinarian's Office and alert appropriate agencies, societies and organizations of the wildlife disease implications.
- e. Determine location of the disease outbreak and alert the proper VDGIF Regional Office.

3. Response Operations

- a. In response to a suspected wildlife disease outbreak the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer will:
 - 1) Initiate surveillance of susceptible wildlife. Review the potential for the disease to spread through the affected wildlife population or other wildlife populations in the area. Set up a quarantine zone if necessary, identifying susceptible wildlife populations both free ranging and captive animals, what vector species may be present in the area, what game farms and/or exhibitors are present in the area, and what hunting seasons are in progress.
 - 2) Determine the need to activate regional VDGIF teams to collect needed wildlife samples within the affected area or to begin population reduction measures to assure containment of the disease.

- 3) Deploy regional teams, if needed, led by the Regional Wildlife Biologist. The Regional Wildlife Biologist will coordinate with the Regional Law Enforcement Captain to deploy appropriate teams into the affected area. VDGIF staff will include wildlife and law enforcement personnel in the region. All regional VDGIF staff will be equipped with communication equipment including two way radios (hand held and vehicle), cell phones, and/or pagers. Regional VDGIF teams will assemble appropriate equipment and become familiarized with the affected area by reviewing topography maps, wildlife densities, and known wildlife facilities.
 - 4) Determine the need for additional technical teams from USDA-Wildlife Services, Department of Defense biologists, or county/city biologists at the discretion of the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer. Wildlife disease experts from the Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) in Athens, GA, will also be available upon request.
 - 5) Notify Wildlife Rehabilitators in the affected area and determine the assistance they might provide and outline any restrictions on the handling of susceptible wildlife. Rehabilitators will advise callers that find sick or injured wild animals in the affected that are susceptible species to call the nearest VDGIF office or VEOC.
 - 6) Determine the need to conduct surveillance outside of the affected area which may include examination of susceptible animals by VDGIF biologists at hunter check stations, road killed deer, and at wildlife rehabilitator's facilities.
 - 7) Assess the impacts on any threatened and endangered species, either captive or free ranging, occurring within the affected area.
- b. In response to a confirmed wildlife disease outbreak the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer will immediately employ measures to contain and eradicate the disease.

These measures include:

- 1) Establishing a quarantine zone.
- 2) Movement controls in and around the impact area will be immediately put in place to prevent the spread of the disease. Any movement of wildlife or susceptible domestic animals within the quarantine area will require authorization from the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer. Transportation restrictions will be enforced by local and state law enforcement officials in coordination with the Virginia Department of Transportation and local public works officials.
- 3) Animals that exhibit symptoms of the confirmed wildlife disease as well as those that may have come into contact with these animals, will be immediately euthanized and disposed of in the most humane manner possible. This process may be accomplished through private contracts. However, for expediency and health reasons, the depopulation process may initially begin with public resources until the contracts can be executed. Disposal options that may be employed include burning, burying, and rendering. Depending on the situation, one or more of these options may be employed.

- 4) Epidemiological investigations will be initiated immediately to determine the possible cause and potential scope of the wildlife disease outbreak.
- 5) Strict sanitary measures will be implemented in and around the quarantine area. All personnel, equipment, and areas that may have been contaminated will be cleaned and disinfected with a permitted disinfectant.
- 6) All non-susceptible animals that may be carriers of the disease may be collected, confined, or possibly euthanized to avoid spread of the disease.
- 7) The handling and disposal of disinfectants as well as the disposal of animals and animal products will be coordinated with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Many pesticides and disinfectants recommended and utilized in these operations must be handled by trained and certified personnel wearing the appropriate protective equipment. In enclosed or confined areas, it is recommended that personnel working with chemicals wear respirators.
- 8) Pesticides, disinfectants, and other chemicals must be applied in an environmentally safe manner. The appropriate precautions must be taken to protect sensitive environmental areas from possible contamination and degradation. All necessary emergency permits to conduct operations will be acquired.
- 9) The quarantine will remain in place for a specified time based on the type of wildlife disease following depopulation of the last infected premise and may be extended until such time as the State Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer State Veterinarian, in coordination with the USDA Area Veterinarian-In-Charge, determines it safe to resume normal operations.
- 10) Hunting seasons will be postponed by VDGIF Board order in all counties located within the quarantine area, if necessary.
- 11) VDGIF collection teams will depopulate susceptible wildlife species within the quarantine zone. All susceptible wildlife species will be killed. It should be noted, however, that a complete elimination of all animals will be unlikely. Populations of wild susceptible animals should be reduced to such a density that transmission of the virus would be curtailed. Disposal of wildlife carcasses will be in accordance with Virginia DEQ and USDA Animal Emergency Response Organization (AERO) procedures.
- 12) A list of resource needs will be developed and maintained. Potential resource providers (public as well as private) will be identified on a state as well as regional basis to facilitate mobilization of resources and initiation of response and recovery operations. All resources will be tracked and expenditures documented throughout the operation.

4. **Training and Bio-security:**

The necessary bio-security measures will be employed in conducting field investigations to avoid the spread of disease. Investigative teams and support personnel will be equipped with the recommended personal protective equipment. Regional VDGIF teams will be trained by USDA Animal Emergency Response Organization (AERO) personnel on procedures for bio-security, sample collections, and disinfection.

5. **Emergency Contacts:**

Wildlife Disease Emergency Contacts at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries can be provided by the Wildlife Emergency Disease Officer upon request.